

REMARKS

Summary of Examiner's Action

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 & 9-55. More specifically, the Examiner rejected

- claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, 12-14, 20-27, 28-32, 39-41 and 43-49 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al (USP 6,496,855), in view of Moon.
- claims 2, 4, 7, 10, and 11 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hunt and Moon, and further in view of Linden;
- claims 15 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Moon and further in view of Kamiya,
- claims 16-19, under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Moon and Kamiya, and further in view of Flemming, and
- claims 33-38 and 50-55 under 35 USC 103 in view of Hunt in view of Kamiya, and further in view of Flemming.

*Once again, Applicant is unable to find a detailed reason for the rejection of claim 42.

Rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, 12-14, 20-27, 28-32, 39-41 and 43-49

Claim 1 is drawn to a method comprising:

- a user computer, on behalf of a user, registering the user with a first web site;
- the user computer providing a first email address received from an email service provider for use to register the user with said first web site;
- the user computer, on behalf of the user, registering the user with a second web site; and

the user computer providing a second email address received from the email service provider, separate and distinct from the first email address, for use to register said user with said second web site;

wherein either the first and second email addresses were simultaneously pre-provided to the user computer by the email service provider, or

each of the first and second email addresses is provided to the user computer by the email service provider in real time in response to a first and a second request post enrollment of the user as a service subscriber of the email service provider, respectively

Thus, the user computer provides a first email address received from an email service provider for use to register the user with a first web site, and provides a second (separate and distinct) email address received from the email service provider for use to register the user with a second web site. The first and second email addresses are either (1) simultaneously pre-provided to the user computer by the email service provider, or (2) each provided to the user computer by the email service provider in real time in response to a first and a second request post enrollment of the user as a service subscriber of the email service provider, respectively.

Hunt generally teaches web site registration proxy system where a registration agent acts as an intermediary/proxy between web sites and internet users. The intermediary acts as a single source of data entry for users to allow users to register with web sites automatically and move between sites via a single interface.

The Examiner cites column 2, line 66 through column 3, line 9 and column 7, lines 12-19 as teaching “either the first and second email addresses were simultaneously pre-provided to the user computer by the email service provider, or each of the first and second email addresses is provided to the user computer by the email service provider in real time in response to a first and a second request.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization and submits that “provision of the first and second email addresses from the email service provider to the user

computer" is not taught by Hunt. In fact, Hunt specifically states (beginning at column 2, line 66) that the method disclosed includes the step of "providing unique proxy address for the user..." Thus, the registration agent provides a proxy address for the user rather than to the user. Furthermore, column 7, lines 12-19 states "[w]hen a site requests the user's email address, the interface generates a new address in a mail domain and supplies that to the site..." Thus, it is the registration agent interface that generates and supplies the email address to the web site and not the user.

The Examiner further stated that Hunt does not teach that an email address is provided to the user computer by the email service provider post enrollment of the user as a service subscriber of the email service provider. However, the Examiner asserts that this deficiency is remedied by Moon, as taught in column 1, lines 20-28.

In the subject passage, Moon states:

Generally, a user opens up an account with the mail service provider(s) of his/her choice. The user then receives software from the mail service provider which the user must load on his/her computer in order for the computer to interface, i.e., receive and transmit electronic mail items, with the mail server utilized by the mail service provider. The user also receives an address or "mailbox" within the mail service provider's network at which electronic mail items addressed to the user are received and stored.

Thus, in the subject passage, Moon merely teaches:

- a) provision of a single address or "mailbox";
- b) where this single address or mailbox identifies a location in the service provider's network at which the electronic mail items addressed to the user are received and stored; and
- c) where (a) and (b) occur during the opening of the user account.

Applicant submits that the address or "mailbox" referred to in Moon identifies a location in the service providers network where electronic mail (email) items are stored and not an email address which identifies the mailbox of the recipient. To further illustrate, a user may have a single mailbox on a mail server, which receives email messages addressed to multiple email accounts for a given user. For example, a user may have a work-based email account and corresponding email address in addition to a personal email account and personal email address (e.g., such as that provided by HOTMAIL or YAHOO). The user may configure their personal email account to forward to their work email account, email messages addressed to their personal email address. In doing so, email messages addressed to either work or personal email address will end up being stored in a single mailbox on the user's work email server.

Thus, Applicant submits that provision of a mailbox that identifies a location in the service provider's network at which the electronic mail items addressed to the user are received and stored is not the same as provision of an email address. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Moon does not cure the deficiencies of Hunt.

However, even if we assume that Moore can be read as teaching provision of an email address by the email service provider post enrollment of the user as a service subscriber of the email service provider, Applicant submits that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Hunt with that of Moon. The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to further modify the web site registration system of hunt of Hunt by providing email address to the user computer by the service provider post-enrollment because "the email service provider's (email service) function is to produce and email address (mailbox) for the subscribed computer so that a user may send and receive email through the provider."

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that in obviousness rejections, the Examiner must view the invention as a whole as required by the literal language of section 103. When viewed as a whole, Hunt teaches a fundamentally different approach from the present invention, an agency approach, where the service provider generates the email addresses, performing the registrations with the respective web sites using the generated email addresses, and receiving/processing emails addressed to the generated email addresses. As such, since the user does not perform the registrations, there would be no need for the provider to notify the user as to what the email address is that the provider generated.

In contrast, the present invention as claimed by claim 1, is directed towards an approach where the email service provider's role is limited to the provision of the email addresses and processing of the emails addressed to the provided email addresses. Registrations with the websites, including provision of the respective email addresses are performed by the user computer.

If the Examiner is to maintain the rejection with Moon or a replacement art, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide evidence to support why one of the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to modify Hunt's complete agency approach to Applicant's limited agency approach.

Thus, for at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant submits amended claim 1 is patentable over Hunt, alone or in view of Moon.

The Examiner further rejected claims 21, 24, 28, 39, 41 and 45 as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Moon. In particular, with respect to claim 21, the Examiner stated that Moon teaches an electronic device (e-device) obtaining a plurality of distinct email addresses from an email service provider. Applicant

submits that for at least the reasons set forth above, Moon does not teach or otherwise suggest that which it is asserted Moon teaches.

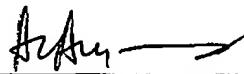
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, and 9-55 are in condition for allowance, and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,

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